

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 5 has been amended, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application, and new claim 6 has been added. Thus, claims 5 and 6 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006, claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,590,288 to Castor et al. (hereinafter, "Castor") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,529 to Lum (hereinafter, "Lum"). Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castor and Lum as applied to claims 1 and 3 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,979 to Moderi et al. (hereinafter, "Moderi"). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,374,248 to Nazari (hereinafter, "Nazari") in view of Castor and further in view of Lum. It is noted that claims 1-4 have been canceled and claim 5 has been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejections, as follows.

Claim 5, as amended recites, in part:

at least one server; and
a plurality of clients linked in series, wherein the plurality of clients are linked to the at least one server, and the at least one server has server functionality with regard to the plurality of clients under normal conditions,
wherein at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it

executes processing of application or applications installed therein in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the processing to said clients that issued such requests, and operates as a back-up server with regard to the rest of the plurality of clients when the at least one server goes down.

The Applicant respectfully submits none of the applied art of record discloses or suggests at least the combination of at least one server; and a plurality of clients linked in series, wherein the plurality of clients are linked to the at least one server, and the at least one server has server functionality with regard to the plurality of clients under normal conditions, wherein at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application or applications installed therein in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the processing to said clients that issued such requests, and operates as a back-up server with regard to the rest of the plurality of clients when the at least one server goes down, as recited in independent claim 5, as amended.

For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that claim 5 is allowable over the applied art of record. As claim 5 is allowable, the Applicant submits that new claim 6, which depends from allowable claim 5, is likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5.


Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 024304-00000. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 024304-00000.

Respectfully submitted,


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